United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/19/CIV/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 February 2014
English
Original: French

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Nineteenth session
28 April–9 May 2014

National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Côte d'Ivoire

* The present document has been reproduced as received. Its content does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

GE.14-10738 (E) 130314 140314

1410738

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. This report for the second cycle of the universal periodic review is being submitted against the backdrop of a country in the midst of reconstruction and reconciliation following a post-election crisis, both of which are major concerns of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. With the international community's support, it is striving to come up with lasting solutions, with due consideration for human rights, in accordance with the commitments made under national law and ratified international legal instruments.

2. Côte d'Ivoire received 147 recommendations for the first cycle of the review on 3 December 2009 and accepted 108. In its written replies of 17 March 2010 (A/HCR/13/9/Add.1/Rev.1), it informed the Human Rights Council of its position on the remaining 39, including two that did not enjoy support.

3. Since the consideration of its report, Côte d'Ivoire has continued its efforts to improve the human rights situation. For that purpose, it not only harmonized some of its national laws but also began to take on and fulfil its international obligations through national and sectoral policies.

4. Despite these efforts, Côte d'Ivoire is still facing challenges in meeting its human rights commitments. The military and political crisis of 2002 and the post-election crisis of 2010 have had a considerable negative impact on its capacity to maintain and build on the achievements made where the observance and enjoyment of those rights are concerned. These challenges and constraints are set out in chapter IX. The causes of these crises and their impact on human rights is analysed in chapter X.

II. Methodology and consultation process

5. Following the review in 2009, the State established a committee to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations. However, the committee was unable to function, as the post-election crisis was marked by the dissolution of the Independent Electoral Commission and the Government in February 2010 and constituted a major obstacle to the development and dissemination of plans of action to implement the recommendations. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms established a forum for dialogue between its services and other State entities by instituting human rights focal points.

6. The National Human Rights Commission held meetings with representatives of civil society in August and November 2013 in order to solicit their views, in accordance with the guidelines of the Human Rights Council.

7. The Ministry established a task force to draft this report.

8. The report was prepared in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, including the annex to resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, on institution-building of the Council, the annex to resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011, on the review of the work and functioning of the Council, and decision 17/119 of 17 June 2011, on the follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 with regard to the universal periodic review. It is focused mainly on follow-up and implementation of the recommendations made in the previous review and on changes in the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire between 2010 and 2013.

III. Development of the normative and institutional framework

A. Constitution

9. The political system of Côte d'Ivoire is governed by the Constitution of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Act, No. 2000-513 of 1 August 2000. The process of political and institutional reform embarked on in early 2012 led the parliament to pass Act No. 2012-1134 of 13 December 2012, under which article 85 bis was introduced into title VI of the Constitution. This constitutional amendment made it possible to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, making Côte d'Ivoire the 122nd State party.

B. National legislation

10. Côte d'Ivoire has developed and adopted a number of new laws to strengthen its national normative framework. They include in particular:

- Act No. 2012-1132 of 13 December 2012 on the establishment, powers, organization and functioning of the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (recommendations Nos. 6–12);
- Act No. 2012-1134 of 13 December 2012, which introduced article 85 bis, concerning the International Criminal Court, into title VI of the Constitution (recommendation No. 101 (paras. 3–6 and 16)).

C. Policy measures

11. Côte d'Ivoire adopted its National Development Plan on 26 March 2012. The Plan is a framework to bring together all national development policies. It is built on the following six cornerstones:

- Defence, security, justice and rule of law;
- Education, health, employment and social matters;
- Economy, agriculture and the private sector;
- Infrastructure, water, energy and mines;
- Environment, standard of living, housing and public utilities;
- Culture, youth and sport.

12. A national policy to promote and protect human rights is currently being developed by the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms.

13. A bill on the protection of human rights defenders, drafted with the close cooperation of civil society, was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 4 September 2013.

D. Ratified international instruments

14. Between 2010 and 2013 Côte d'Ivoire signed and/or ratified several international instruments: see entry 2 of the table showing the status of implementation of the recommendations on international instruments and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

E. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

1. National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire

15. Under Act No. 2012-1132 of 13 December 2012 on the establishment, powers, organization and functioning of the National Human Rights Commission, the Commission is an independent advisory and administrative authority which has been tasked with assisting in the promotion and protection of human rights. Unlike the previous Commission, the new one is in conformity with the Paris Principles (recommendations Nos. 6–12, 16 and 17).

2. Office of the Ombudsman

16. Under title XI of the Constitution, the Ombudsman is an independent administrative authority. For the time being, this institution is governed by Organization Act No. 2007-540 of 1 August 2007, which established the powers, organization and functioning of the mediation body known as the Office of the Ombudsman.

17. Article 7 of the Act confers on the Ombudsman the "mission to settle through mediation, without prejudice to the powers vested in State institutions and organizations by laws and regulations, disagreements and disputes submitted to the President of the Republic for arbitration".

3. National Press Council

18. Established pursuant to Act No. 2004-643 of 14 December 2004, the Council is an independent administrative authority responsible for monitoring the compliance of press organizations and journalists with the obligations set out under the Press Regulation Act. It has the power to take disciplinary action against print media outlets and professional journalists. It thus ensures that the regulations governing the foundation, assets, resources and professional code of ethics of a press organization and media pluralism are observed.

4. High Authority for Audiovisual Communication

19. The National Audiovisual Council was set up as the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication by Order No. 2011-75 of 30 April 2011. The Authority is an independent administrative authority. Its mission is to guarantee and uphold the freedom and protection of audiovisual communication, ensure that information is handled in accordance with the professional code of ethics, guarantee access to official information and communication bodies, ensure equitable treatment of national institutions, political parties, associations and private citizens and foster and guarantee pluralism in the audiovisual media.

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground and compliance with international obligations

Right to life

20. Throughout the entire post-election period significant infringements of the right to life were routinely committed. The infringements, including summary executions and enforced disappearances, were done by various actors.

21. The National Commission of Inquiry reported 3,248 cases of infringement of the right to life. Women and children are counted among the victims. Numerous witnesses attest to the fact that people's throats were slit and pregnant women were raped before

being killed. Inquiries show that a large share of the victims (29.68 per cent, or 2,018 cases) were summarily executed, apparently for political and/or ethnic reasons.

Right to physical integrity and security of the person

22. Violations of these specific rights take on various forms, from torture and ill-treatment to enforced disappearance, rape, assault, death threats and other forms of intimidation.

23. The Commission recorded a significant number of persons who were subject to torture and cruel, inhuman and humiliating treatment.

24. The Commission also recorded 196 cases of rape of women and other sexual assaults. According to the Commission, the number of actual cases had likely been underreported, as rape victims in general had difficulty coming forward.

25. In the course of the inquiries, the Commission documented 8,441 cases of violations of the right to physical integrity and security of the person.

Right to freedom of movement

26. A number of roadblocks manned by armed persons were set up in various districts to prevent the free movement of people. Identity checks were carried out and persons regarded as belonging to the rival camp were prohibited from passing through. In the least serious cases of abuse, the roadblocks were used for racketeering. In other cases, however, they were used for abduction, false imprisonment and summary execution.

27. Violations of the freedom of movement also included frequent curfews imposed by the authorities. In certain towns, organized partisan groups imposed their own measures in violation of the right to freedom of movement (Yopougon, Abobo, Anono, Issia, Koumassi, etc.).

Right to freedom of expression, opinion and information

28. There was an increase in violations of the right to freedom of expression, opinion and information. Examples of such violations include monopolization of State media and subsequent takeover and transformation into instruments of propaganda, news programmes like *Raison d'État*, bans on international news broadcasts and the occupation of certain newspaper offices.

Right to property

29. Infringements of the right to property during the post-election crisis outnumber any other rights violations: 15,583 cases, or 42.5 per cent of all cases of violations reported to the Commission, involved property rights. The violations take on many forms: carjackings, arson, pillaging of various properties such as homes, businesses and plantations, unlawful appropriation of the property of others and occupation of the homes of certain prominent figures.

30. The damage caused by the looting is extensive. The country's economy has suffered greatly. Public and private services nearly came to a standstill. Citizens were thus denied various economic and social rights, including the right to work, the right to health and the right to education.

Right to health

31. The reigning insecurity and numerous roadblocks made it difficult, if not impossible, for patients to reach health facilities. Furthermore, the medical profession was a victim of acts of violence (Cocody University Hospital Centre).

32. Many health facilities and pharmacies were also looted, which reduced the capacity to provide care and supplies of medicine. Furthermore, the authorities' decision to cut off water and electricity to people from areas controlled by the Forces nouvelles and to impose an economic embargo adversely affected sanitation in the regions.

Right to religious freedom

33. Violations of the right to religious freedom constitute another outward sign of the infringement of the right to freedom of opinion. Political discord has carried over into the religious sphere, thus constituting violations of the right to religious freedom.

34. A number of religious buildings were raided or searched illegally. Mosques were attacked in Grand-Bassam, Abobo and Duékoué. The same happened with the Anyama Major Seminary, the Holy Trinity Parish of Koumassi and the Issia Seminary.

35. Religious leaders have also been victims of acts of violence. Imams were killed in Williamsville, Yopougon (Port Bouët 2) and Duékoué. The curate of the parish of Bloléquin has been reported missing since 2 April 2011.

Right to peaceful assembly

36. During the period under review the authorities banned demonstrations planned by their respective opposition. Despite the bans, supporters of Mr. Ouattara and those of Mr. Gbagbo organized demonstrations that were sometimes violently suppressed.

V. Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms

37. In accordance with recommendations Nos. 25 and 26, Côte d'Ivoire has taken several courses of action, as set out in the table below.

38. Moreover, Côte d'Ivoire reiterates its readiness to cooperate fully with all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. It has undertaken to review promptly any request by the special procedures for a visit (recommendations Nos. 24 to 27).

39. In fact, following the post-election crisis, it cooperated fully with all the United Nations missions on the human rights situation, in particular the National Commission of Inquiry led by Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn and the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Doudou Diène (who carried out five visits between 2011 and 2013).

40. The organization of the fifty-second session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in October 2012, at which Côte d'Ivoire submitted its initial and combined reports, is yet further proof of the country's determination to cooperate with international and regional human rights organizations.

41. Furthermore, Côte d'Ivoire is cooperating with the International Criminal Court.

VI. Follow-up and implementation of recommendations and commitments made during the review of 3 December 2009

42. The table below gives a thematic summary of the measures adopted and implemented in Côte d'Ivoire to follow up on the recommendations under the first universal periodic review. It focuses on recommendations that have been accepted and those that have been taken into consideration following the interactive dialogue.

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
1. National laws, institutions, policies and strategies		
Impact of the crisis on human rights and national reconciliation		
99.1, 99.2, 99.3, 99.16, 99.17, 99.106		Among the political measures taken is the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, which gave a boost to the crisis resolution process, particularly the organization of various elections and the merging of two armies (Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire and the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles).
Take all necessary steps to implement the outstanding elements of the peace agreement and to complete the electoral process as quickly as possible.	Achieved	The peace agreement was carried out as far as the aspects of the election process is concerned. As part of its efforts to put in place conflict prevention and management mechanisms, the Government organized several training workshops and courses, with the support of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and certain NGOs, in various towns in the country for civil society and community leaders, including women, young people and religious and customary authorities. A campaign to raise awareness about the need for social cohesion was also carried out among specific groups in Abidjan and within the country under the National Programme on Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation.

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
Continue the policy of national reconciliation.	In progress	The Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established by Order No. 2011-167 of 13 July 2011 to foster national reconciliation. The mission of this independent commission is to work autonomously for reconciliation and greater social cohesion between all communities living in Côte d'Ivoire. Its essential task is to identify violations and their perpetrators and propose redress measures for the victims. Set up on 28 September 2011, the Commission is representative of all social groups of the population of Côte d'Ivoire, Ivorian nationals living abroad and foreign nationals living in Côte d'Ivoire. The Commission officially submitted its report to the Head of State on 21 November 2013. A national programme for social cohesion was put in place to sustain reconciliation efforts. With a view to promoting political dialogue several figures from the former regime who had been incarcerated or placed under house arrest were released and certain obtained the lifting of the freeze on their assets. The last wave of releases, involving the President of the Front populaire ivoirien (FPI) and Mr. Gbagbo's son, among others, is likely to reopen political dialogue. The national dialogue was resumed within the permanent forum for dialogue, which brings together the Government and opposition parties. Two bills are worth noting in this context, concerning the status of the opposition and the financing of political parties. A joint mission led by the Ministry of African Integration and the Ministry of Defence thus made the return of exiled officers and enlisted personnel possible. To prepare the ground for genuine national reconciliation, the Government organized several missions throughout the country in 2009, 2010 and 2011, particularly in the Centre, North and

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		West (CNO) areas. The President of the National Assembly went to the Gôh region in August 2013 to alleviate the bitterness of the supporters of their "native son," the former president.
Continue the policy to promote human rights and the rule of law.	In progress	With respect to the promotion of human rights and public freedoms, the following measures have been implemented: (i) the publication of a compendium of international human rights instruments ratified by Côte d'Ivoire; (ii) the establishment of a digital databank including the entire collection of official gazettes from 1959 to 2011; (iii) the organization of a seminar for military and paramilitary forces to build their capacity for observing human rights; (iv) the raising of public awareness about human rights through mobile telephones. As regards the dissemination of laws and procedures so that the people are better informed of their rights, a publicly accessible digital databank including the entire collection of official gazettes from 1959 to 2011 and all the relevant international conventions is available online, on CD-ROM and in binders.
Displaced persons **99.95, 99.96**		
Identify and promote awareness among displaced persons of their fundamental rights and cover their basic needs.	In progress	During the 2009–2011 period, 5,678 internally displaced persons, 8.56 per cent of them women, were trained and reintegrated into society through income-generating activities. These efforts are being carried on by public and semi-public bodies to this day. For example, the internally displaced persons who voluntarily returned to the Vallée du Bandama have benefited from training in diverse areas (hairdressing, engineering, agriculture, etc.). With the assistance of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other humanitarian actors, 1,129 internally displaced persons voluntarily returned to their homes from sites of the Catholic mission of Duékoué and Aboisso. Similarly, IOM rebuilt 300

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		homes in western Côte d'Ivoire. Lastly, 1,308 internally displaced persons returned to their various districts in Duékoué in late 2011. Additional budgetary funds amounting to 90 million CFA francs (some 138,000 euros) in humanitarian assistance were authorized as an exceptional measure for the populations affected by the post-election crisis. National and international NGOs and friendly States made donations of food supplies and other basic necessities.
Compensation for victims		
99.14, 99.15		
Examine the possibilities for developing a legislative framework for the compensation of war victims.	In progress	The main work relating to war victims involves the drafting of a bill on war victim identification and compensation for harm. (The Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission is responsible for proposing redress measures.) A bill on wards of the State was currently under consideration by the Government.
Institutional framework		
National Human Rights Institution		
99.6, 99.7, 99.8, 99.9, 99.10, 99.11, 99.12		
Amend the law to establish the National Human Rights Commission to bring it into compliance with the Paris Principles and seek to have it accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions.	Achieved	The Commission established pursuant to Act No. 2012-1132 of 13 December 2012 is in conformity with the Paris Principles. It is made up of 22 members, 6 of whom sit in a consultative capacity (representatives of government organizations) and 16 with the right to vote, including 9 voting members from civil society. The new institution was set up on 10 June 2013. It is presided over by Ms. Ezouehu Paulette Badjo.
National policies and strategies		
Human rights awareness-raising, education and training		
99.18, 99.19, 99.21, 99.22, 99.23, 99.24, 99.65		
Participate in UNOCI efforts to fulfil its mandate in this area, develop national human rights	In progress	The Government has adopted policies for the protection and promotion of human rights spearheaded by the Ministry of

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
education programmes in general and education programmes on the fundamental rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups in particular for civil servants, public security officers and prison and judicial authorities and ensure full accountability for any human rights violations.		Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms which cover awareness-raising, education and combating impunity. They include capacity-building workshops for military and paramilitary forces (October 2011 and September 2012) and human rights focal points of ministries and public institutions (March and September 2012), the introduction of human rights and citizenship education into the education system beginning in the 2012/13 school year and the training of human rights and citizenship education trainers at the National Teaching Institute for Technical and Vocational Education and the National Higher Institute for the Arts and Cultural Activities.
2. International human rights instruments and cooperation with international mechanisms		
99.25, 99.26, 99.104 99.105, 99.107, 99.108		
Improve cooperation with the United Nations treaty bodies by agreeing on timelines for submitting overdue reports and, if necessary, identify needs for assistance for that purpose; fight crime, sexual violence and child trafficking in accordance with international standards.	Achieved	The combined initial and second and third periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women were submitted on 7 September 2010 and presented on 14 October 2011 in Geneva. The initial report to the Human Rights Committee was submitted on 19 March 2013. Note: In order to show its willingness to cooperate with monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of instruments to which Côte d'Ivoire is a party, the State submitted its initial and combined periodic reports (covering 1992 to 2012) to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in June 2012 The report was presented at the fifty-second session of the Commission on 11 and 12 October 2012 in Yamoussoukro in Côte d'Ivoire.
Seek technical assistance from the international community	Achieved	During the period under consideration, Côte d'Ivoire benefited from the support of a number of multilateral and bilateral partners in various fields, including from the United Nations system: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank,

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNOCI, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) (roads), European Union, African Development Bank (ADB), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (birth registration), International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) (capacity-building), chancelleries, etc.
Universal periodic review		
99.97, 99.98, 99.101, 99.102, 99.103, 99.99, 99.100		
Continue close cooperation with various stakeholders and non-governmental organizations and design and carry out a national programme for the implementation of the recommendations.	Achieved	As indicated above, a committee to follow up on the recommendations made under the universal periodic review serves as a forum for exchanges between civil society and the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms. The committee enjoys the support of the Ministry in seeking funding and organizing activities. In addition, the Ministry regularly represents the Government in all civil society activities relating to the universal periodic review.
Seek technical and financial assistance from the international community, in particular United Nations organs and programmes, for the implementation of the universal periodic review.	Achieved	Under the periodic review (Follow-up and implementation of recommendations), Côte d'Ivoire has enjoyed the support of the international community, particularly the many forms of support provided by UNOCI, OIF and international NGOs such as the International Service for Human Rights and the Equitas International Centre for Human Rights Education.
Signatures, Ratifications		
Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa	Noted[1] Implemented	The instrument was ratified in March 2012.
101.1		

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
Rome Statute **101.3, 101.4, 101.5, 101.6, 101.1, 101.16**	Noted Implemented	The instrument was ratified in January 2013.
Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment **101.7, 101.8, 101.9, 101.10, 101.16**	Noted	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **101.10, 101.16**	Noted Implemented	Decree No. 2013-539 of 30 July 2013 on ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights **101.11, 101.16**	Noted Implemented	Côte d'Ivoire is a de jure abolitionist State. The death penalty is prohibited by the Constitution. The First Optional Protocol to the Covenant was ratified on 5 March 1997.
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights **101.11**	Noted Not implemented	
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance **101.12, 101.17**	Noted Not implemented	
Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child **101.13, 101.14, 101.15, 101.16, 101.19**	Noted Implemented	Decree No. 2011-220 of 7 September 2011 to ratify and publish the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, ratified on 7 September 2011.

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families **101.13**	Noted Not implemented	
Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons **101.13, 101.17, 101.20, 101.21**	Implemented	Decree No. 2013-650 of 13 September 2013 to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, signed on 28 September 1954 in New York.
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol **101.2, 101.22**	Noted Implemented	Accession to the Protocol on 20 January 2012.
Grant the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children created in 2000 investigative powers **101.23**	Noted	
Cooperation with the International Criminal Court		
Authorize the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to conduct a mission in Côte d'Ivoire and allow for a mission to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to undertake investigations into acts committed in the country after the events of September 2002. **101.33, 101.34**	Noted	Côte d'Ivoire maintains its position as set out in document A/HRC/13/9/Add./Rev.1 and remains committed to analysing requests for visits. (Recommendations Nos. 33 and 34.)
3. Governance (democracy, elections, justice system, transparency and fight against corruption and impunity)		
Justice system **99.4, 99.5, 99.63, 99.64, 99.66, 99.67, 99.68, 99.69**		
Speed up the implementation of the Rural Land Act and take steps to inform the public about its provisions.	Implemented	Act No. 2013 of 13 September 2013 on the time frame for setting down customary rights to customary property land, amending article 6 of Act No. 98-750 of 23 December 1998 relating to rural land, as amended by Act 2004-412 of 14 August 2004. Under this new law, the Government has undertaken to

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		resolve problems involving rural land promptly. Members of parliament in particular are currently mounting public awareness campaigns to explain to the people how this law is being applied. A national rural land security programme has been put in place.
Finalize the ongoing legislative reforms, particularly those related to family law, the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure. Improve the efficiency of the judicial system; strengthen and harmonize the child protection legal framework.	Implemented	The household is to be headed jointly by the spouses under article 58 of Act No. 2013-33 of 25 January 2013, repealing article 53 and amending articles 58, 59, 60 and 67 of Act 64-375 of 7 October 1964 on marriage, as amended by Act No. 83-800 of 2 August 1983 aimed at the establishment of equality between men and women. A panel of experts is responsible for considering a reform of the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure so as to bring it into conformity with the provisions contained in the relevant ratified international instruments.
Commit to establishing judicial procedures that uphold the rights of those accused of crimes and sent to court.	In progress	The Code of Criminal Procedures provides for a detention period for minor offences (6 months at the most) and criminal offences (18 months at the most). The accused are granted a release automatically if they are held for a longer period. (arts. 138 and 139).
Improve citizens' access to justice by reviewing legal aid procedures and the establishment of new courts.	Implemented	A reform aimed at building up the network of legal aid services is under way. Two courts (Issia and Guiglo) were inaugurated in 2013 and work has started on 10 others.
Establish a juvenile justice system to guarantee the protection of the rights of minors.	In progress	Minors benefit from judicial protection in Côte d'Ivoire through special courts (juvenile court judge, juvenile court, juvenile assize courts). All courts and court divisions have a juvenile court judge and juvenile court. All courts are provided with youth offending teams responsible for helping in the reintegration of minors. They are helped by social workers.
101.31		
Legislative, judicial and prison reform, capacity-building in the	Implemented	Justice is accessible to all. Judges are trained to render fair and impartial

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
administration of justice, transparency and access to justice for all Ivorians, without discrimination based on resources.		judgements. Courts are operating throughout the country. A programme called "ProJustice" backed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is under way to give people in need access to legal aid and justice services throughout the country.
Impunity		
99.32, 99.33, 99.6, 99.70, 99.71		
Combat summary executions.	Noted Implemented	The State has taken security measures to protect the population by increasing the number of police units and monitoring men under arms more rigorously. In addition, the State has begun to disarm gangs and militia groups to quarter military forces in barracks. The law has been restored throughout the country.
Fight impunity.	Implemented	The National Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to Decree No. 2011-176 of 20 July 2011 and the special investigation unit (Decree No. 020/MEMJ/DSJRH/MEF of 24 June 2011) were set up to search for, find and punish human rights offenders. The National Commission of Inquiry submitted its report on 8 August 2012. Judicial inquiries are still under way. State-funded exhumations have been carried out in order to help to document human rights violations. Certain human rights offenders caught in the act were tried and convicted. The will of the State to combat impunity is shown by the recent conviction of the Commander of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI) of Vavoua and two of his brothers in arms for murder and being an accessory to murder, the transfer of former president Laurent Gbagbo to the International Criminal Court and the arrest of the militia head Amadé Ouérémi.
101.32		
Investigate and prosecute the cases of serious human rights violations that occurred during	Noted Implemented	A non-judicial investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms and the

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
the fighting in 2002 and 2003.		results of the investigation were published.
Elections		
99.74, 99.75, 99.76, 99.77		
Guarantee the free, open and transparent nature of future presidential elections and cooperation with the Independent Electoral Commission.		Elections took place in the aftermath of the crisis. Leaving aside the presidential elections, the legislative, regional and municipal elections on the whole ran rather smoothly despite the formal absence of the Front populaire ivoirien (FPI).
4. Civil and political rights		
Deprivation of liberty/Conditions of detention		
99.52, 99.53, 99.54, 99.55, 99.56, 99.57		
Improve conditions of detention.	Implemented	A judge responsible for supervising the serving of sentences was appointed for every court of first instance. Food rations have gone from 160 CFA francs per prisoner every day to 420 CFA francs. Under the presidential emergency programme and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and European Union projects, prisons and places of detention (police stations, gendarmeries) have been rehabilitated. There are plans to build 10 new prisons that meet international standards, with an accommodation capacity of 300 to 500 beds. Nurses are on staff at all detention facilities. The Centre for Monitoring Minors at the Abidjan Detention and Correction Centre (MACA) was rehabilitated and supplied with equipment.
Investigate deaths in detention and bring those responsible to justice.	Implemented	Every reported death in detention is put under judicial investigation.
Separate minors, women and men in detention facilities.	Partly implemented.	The majority of prisons are provided with separate facilities for minors, women and men. (Abidjan, Dabou, Aboisso, Bassam, Agboville, etc.)

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
Put an end to arbitrary arrests.	In progress	While there were reports of arbitrary arrests during the post-election crisis, it should be noted that there are fewer and fewer such arrests as courts have opened and discipline within security forces has been restored with the help of numerous training sessions. The establishment of the Protection Office within the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms has helped to lower the number of cases of arbitrary arrest.
Equality and non-discrimination		
99.27, 99.28, 99.29, 99.30		
Reform programmes and launch information campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for all persons and guarantee the right to privacy and non-discrimination.	Implemented	Television and radio programmes have been elaborated and broadcast throughout the country. Large hoardings have been put up in major rural and urban areas. Community-based campaigns have been conducted, with the support of UNOCI, Nestlé, the United States Embassy and the State through the National Committee for the Oversight of Actions to Combat Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour, headed by the First Lady, Ms. Dominique Ouattara.
Abolish all forms of discrimination against women.	Partly implemented	Act No. 2013-33 of 25 January 2013 on marriage places equal parental responsibilities on men and women. The notion of head of the family deemed to be discriminatory is repealed. A bill on increasing women's representation is before the appropriate decision-making bodies. There are ongoing efforts to end gender discrimination.
Tackle discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.	Not implemented	There is no prohibition under the law of any relations between consenting adults in Côte d'Ivoire. Nevertheless, people's attitudes are such that they cannot accept official recognition of same-sex relations.
Protect women, children and persons with disabilities.	Achieved	National laws protect women, children and persons with disabilities. Ministries make every effort to improve their status through specific programmes. (National programme to combat gender-based

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		violence, law to prohibit female circumcision, National Committee for the Oversight of Actions to Combat Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour, law on child pornography, etc.)
101.28		
Put into practice specific programmes to raise awareness about discrimination on grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation and guarantee respect for privacy.	Rejected	
Freedom of expression and opinion		
99.73		
Investigate and prosecute cases of offences against human rights defenders and journalists.	In progress	The investigation into the disappearance of Guy-André Kieffer, a French Canadian journalist, is currently under way. The French and Ivorian justice systems are closely collaborating on the matter. To date, no human rights defenders or journalists have been harassed in their official capacity. Furthermore, a bill to provide them with protection was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 4 September 2013.
5. Economic, social and cultural rights		
Right to an adequate standard of living		
Equitable distribution of wealth		
99.31		
Ensure that the nation's wealth is equitably distributed to address any imbalances in and among the regions.	In progress	The establishment of the National Development Programme is a medium- and long-term response to issues relating to regional imbalances. In the short term, the presidential emergency programme has helped to provide immediate solutions to serious problems faced by the population (e.g. the connection of the city of Bouna with the water and electricity network, road repairs and the restoration of hospitals in the former Central, North and West areas, etc.).
Fight against poverty and unemployment		
99.13, 99.80, 99.81, 99.88, 99.89, 99.90, 99.94		

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
Consolidate the rule of law and fight poverty and unemployment. Formulate more effective development strategies and programmes. Reduce poverty and create jobs, in particular for the young and people living in rural areas.	In progress	Côte d'Ivoire developed the National Development Plan for 2012–2015 in order to combat poverty and foster development. A number of employment programmes have been put in place under the plan, including the Service Delivery Platform and the Job-Creation Initiatives Development Programme. As far as taking on graduates is concerned, the Government has allocated significant funds for the employment of some 8,435 persons in the education (4,535) and health (3,900) sectors. This has led to improvement in the social development indicators relating to reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Between 2009 and 2011, with the support of partners, Côte d'Ivoire implemented various projects to integrate or reintegrate young people into the world of work. They include in particular the Post-Conflict Assistance Project of the Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and the National Civic Service Programme. There is also labour-intensive public works. In addition, under a public-private partnership the State has embarked on the so-called YAANOVEL project to set up agricultural cooperatives in the District of Yamoussoukro. The project will generate 60,000 jobs (15,000 directly and 45,000 indirectly). Furthermore, some departments such as the Ministry of Youth have a fund for poverty reduction efforts. In total, these projects and programmes have resulted in the social and economic reintegration of 38,241 persons (former combatants and former members of vigilante groups). Moreover, 7,584 young persons at risk who have received training are expected to be rehabilitated. Today, the minimum wage has nearly doubled, from 36,607 to 60,000 CFA francs. A tripartite initiative to establish a new code of work aims to reduce job insecurity and afford opportunities for

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		career advancement for workers and tax breaks for businesses that provide training to graduates.
Improve access to social services.	In progress	As regards social services, Côte d'Ivoire has introduced a policy of free care for pregnant women and children under 5 years of age. A number of schools have been created and thousands of teachers have been recruited to tackle the education crisis. For example, the gross school employment rate improved between the 2008/09 and 2011/12 school years, with an increase of about 5 percentage points.
Cooperate with the international community.	Implemented	Côte d'Ivoire cooperates with the international community in every field, particularly with the United Nations system, including IMF, UNDP, UNOCI, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, IDB (roads) and others, and also with the European Union, ADB, UNHCR (birth registration), chancelleries, etc.
101.39		
Devote more resources to national development plans to ensure that the people are able to exercise their essential economic and social rights to the fullest.	Noted Implemented	Since 2012, significant funds have been spent on improving the living conditions of the people (job creation, building of schools, health centres and roads, drilling for drinking water, etc.).
Sustainable development		
99.78		
Implement a national strategy for sustainable development.	Implemented	A national strategy for sustainable development was adopted in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2011. Its implementation falls to the Department of Sustainable Development, established pursuant to Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development Organization Decree, No. 2011-432 of 30 November 2011. Among the noteworthy measures taken is the Plastic Bag Prohibition Decree, No. 2013-327 of 22 May 2013, which will come into force in 2014. Public awareness media campaigns are currently under way. Following the Rio+20 Conference in June 2010, Côte d'Ivoire made a firm

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		commitment to sustainable development by building a green economy. For example, it has: • Organized reforestation campaigns; • Rehabilitated forests classified as degraded by the crisis; • Begun to evacuate people who occupy classified forests unlawfully; • Increased the number forest protection staff.
99.79		
Continue efforts to achieve the Millennium Declaration Goals.	In progress	The tasks undertaken under the presidential emergency programme (road and hospital construction, drinking water for all, etc.) have played their part in making headway on the Goals.
Right to health		
99.82, 99.83, 99.84, 99.85, 99.86		
Continue efforts towards ensuring the access of all citizens to health.	Implemented	The State was involved in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the health-care system between 2009 and 2013. The State has taken steps to build a stronger institutional framework for the health-care system. A national health policy document was drawn up in 2011. A technical working group on the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa, established pursuant to a ministerial decree, has been running since 2013. The State introduced free targeted public obstetric health-care services, including caesarean deliveries, and care for children under 5 years of age. The cost of a doctor's visit has been cut in half. Treated mosquito nets were distributed throughout the country in 2011 and 2012. The operation to distribute mosquito nets is being carried on with women who are pregnant or have recently given birth and children under 5 years of age. The Government has expanded the technical capacity of

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		the Cocody University Hospital Centre to cover organ transplant operations on an inpatient basis. A viral hepatitis treatment programme is currently under way. A hospital specifically for mothers and children is under construction in Bingerville. The decree to establish a national renal failure prevention and treatment centre was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 17 October 2012.
Continue to fight HIV/AIDS among vulnerable groups with the support and cooperation of the international community.	Implemented	The national health development plan and the Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework are being developed. Two HIV/AIDS prevention and care facilities have been rehabilitated and equipped and are now operational in Bouaké and Man. More than 10,000 young people have been made aware of and been covered by HIV/AIDS crisis centres and other youth support organizations. With the support of the United Nations system, a large number of HIV-infected pregnant women have received antiretroviral treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission. In 2010, 45 per cent of the prevention of mother-to-child service delivery points were thus back up and running. The efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of care of persons infected with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS have involved strengthening the institutional framework with the development of national plans to care for HIV/AIDS patients. A preliminary bill on the protection of the rights of persons infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and inclusion of HIV/AIDS in contingency planning for humanitarian assistance was pending adoption. The Government efforts have resulted in a drop in the prevalence rate by half (to some 4 per cent).

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
101.29		
Meet the basic needs of vulnerable groups with education programmes, take preventive action and provide assistance on HIV/AIDS.	Noted Implemented	All vulnerable groups have been covered during the roll-out of the national programme to fight HIV/AIDS.
Toxic waste		
99.87		
Work with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to tackle the problems involving toxic waste disposal.	Implemented	A decontamination operation was carried out on certain polluted sites. The operation, led by French experts, helped to clean up a large part of the city of Abidjan and its suburbs. However, there are still some problem areas that the State is working through the Côte d'Ivoire Anti-Pollution Centre to clear all pollution.
Right to education		
Basic education		
99.91, 99.92, 99.93		
Promote education for all, without discrimination, develop primary education for all children, in urban and rural areas alike, and eliminate disparities between boys and girls.	Implemented	Between 2007 and 2013 the State was involved in facilitating access to education for all by providing free textbooks in primary education and building new classrooms. School-age children have been able to enrol without a birth certificate since the start of the current school year. As regards institutional reform, the Government reinstated school uniforms at the start of the 2011/12 school year. The reform aims to reduce discrimination of an economic or social nature. Action to increase accessibility to schools generally involved building and renovating public schools. For example, 4,478 classrooms were built nationwide, which made it possible for 223,900 pupils to attend school over the 2010–2012 period. Between 2008 and 2012, the Government distributed 6,880,600 mathematics, French and civic and moral

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
		education textbooks and 5,762,334 school kits, i.e. the free education policy reached more than 90 percent of pupils enrolled in public primary school. With the support of United Nations system organizations, the Government equipped 260 early childhood development centres with mats and kits in the urban and rural areas in six regions and 75 primary schools with school furniture. In addition, work has begun on building 1,500 new primary school and 143 preschool classrooms and 100 housing units for primary school teachers. There are 1,800 primary school classrooms available for school mapping. Among them, 1,500 are under construction by virtue of the presidential emergency programme. There will eventually be 3,300 in total that should be functioning for the 2012/13 school year. For the 2012/13 school year, the State recruited 5,000 primary school teachers (2,500 teachers and 2,500 teaching assistants). Some 3,000 secondary school teachers under contract have also been recruited. The State has recruited 8,000 teachers within the space of two years. For the 2013/14 start of the school year, the State wishes to increase its intake capacity through the construction of local secondary schools (collèges). An assessment of Islamic religious schools carried out in 2011 resulted in the integration of 22 out of 43 such schools into the official system of national education. The admissions process was reviewed to make the requirements for access to collèges more equitable. There are no disparities between boys and girls in school enrolment in Côte d'Ivoire. In 2012, girls made up 46 per cent of the primary school student body.

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures/initiatives*
101.35, 101.36, 101.37, 101.38		
Take concrete measures to make primary education effectively compulsory and free and achieve the Goal of universal primary education by 2015.	Noted Implemented	Primary education is compulsory and free. Sustained efforts are being made to achieve the Goal of primary education for all by 2015.
Family		
99.72		
Strengthening the family.	Implemented	As indicated above, the parliament of Côte d'Ivoire passed a bill on marriage on 21 November 2012, to amend Act No. 64-375 of 7 October 1964, in order to bring the national law into conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which Côte d'Ivoire ratified in 1995.
Improve the status of women.	Implemented	The Marriage Act of 2013 has resulted in increases in female employees' income by harmonizing income tax. Spouses have the same rights as a result of the Act. Female spouses are now free to practise a profession of their own choosing. Under the Act, the family is headed jointly by the spouses, in the interests of the household and children. A personal and family code is currently being developed with a view to strengthening the family.
6. Rights of specific groups		
Women's rights and the gender perspective		
99.34, 99.35, 99.36, 99.37, 99.38, 99.39, 99.40, 99.41, 99.42, 99.43, 99.44, 99.45, 99.46, 99.47, 99.48, 99.49, 99.50		
Abolish all laws that discriminate against women, protect women and girls against violence and sexual abuse, support victims and bring an end to related impunity. Finalize the national action plan to combat sexual violence and end female genital mutilation.	Partly implemented.	The State is involved in combating violence against women. For example, it has ratified a number of conventions on gender equality, equal opportunities, equal participation in decision-making and the punishment of violence against women. Among them are the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Recommendations	*Status of implementation*	*Measures initiatives*
		At the national level, the principle of equality between men and women is enshrined in the Constitution of 1 August 2000, which prohibits any form of torture or physical or psychological violence, injury or degradation. Female genital mutilation is punishable under Act No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998. Under the Act, nine practitioners of female circumcision were punished by the court of Katiola. A national strategy to end early marriage was carried out through awareness-raising campaigns in accordance with Act No. 98-756 of 23 December 1998 to make forced marriage and early marriage a punishable offence.
101.30		
Address domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, in accordance with international standards on the rights of the individual.	Noted Implemented	Côte d'Ivoire is the first country in Africa to have adopted a national action plan to address domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, in accordance with the relevant international standards.
Rights of the Child		
99.20, 99.58, 99.59, 99.60, 99.61, 99.51		
Protect children, including orphans and children with disabilities, combat child trafficking, exploitation, forced labour and smuggling, ensure that they have access to education and health care and tackle the problem of street children.	Implemented	Côte d'Ivoire ratified the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in September 2011. At the national level, the following organizations have been mobilized to combat child labour: • The Interdepartmental Committee to Combat Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour. Established pursuant to Decree No. 2011-365 of 3 November 2011, it has been tasked with coordinating and ensuring the implementation of programmes and projects to eradicate child labour. • The National Committee for the Oversight of Actions to Combat Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour, established pursuant to Decree No. 2011-366 of 3 November 2011.

VII. Cooperation with the international community in the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations and commitments made during the universal periodic review

43. With the support of the United Nations system, OIF and bilateral partners, Côte d'Ivoire was able to implement some recommendations, particularly those concerning a resolution of the crisis, education, health, security, poverty eradication and the protection and promotion of human rights.

VIII. Progress and best practices

44. Côte d'Ivoire has embarked on legislative reforms aimed at bringing its national law into conformity with the relevant international human right treaties.

45. It has also organized and/or hosted a certain number of activities within the framework of the universal periodic review that may be considered as signalling steps forward or best practices.

46. Two compendiums of laws have been developed concerning international human rights law ratified by Côte d'Ivoire and laws concerning nationality published in the Official Gazette of Côte d'Ivoire.

47. The National Human Rights Commission was reformed in order to bring it into line with the Paris Principles, particularly by reinforcing the legal framework for its establishment (Act No. 2012-1132 of 13 December 2012), reaffirming its independence and staffing it with 9 commissioners from civil society out of the 16 members with the right to vote.

48. In order to heighten public awareness about human rights, seven Human Rights Days have been held at the regional level in Côte d'Ivoire, in the cities of Korhogo, Man, Gagnoa, Adzopé, San Pedro, Bouaké and Daloa.

49. Côte d'Ivoire hosted the fifty-second session and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in October 2012.

50. Côte d'Ivoire made a solemn declaration on 19 June 2013 which enabled the people to appeal directly to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights if they found that their rights had been violated by the State.

51. Côte d'Ivoire has submitted reports to the following:

- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights at its fifty-second session (October 2012);
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (October 2011);
- Committee on the Rights of the Child (pending final approval).

IX. Difficulties and constraints

52. Côte d'Ivoire has been confronted by difficulties and objective constraints that have adversely affected its ability to implement the recommendations.

53. Poverty reduction:

- Difficulties in the mobilization of resources at both the domestic and international level.

54. Discrimination, violence against women and the fight against female genital mutilation:

(a) Social and cultural obstacles;

(b) Low levels of awareness among the population;

(c) Low level of economic empowerment among women;

(d) Low level of women's representation in elected office and public appointments;

(e) Insufficient awareness about women's rights among the relevant actors;

(f) Low literacy rates among women.

55. Conditions of detention:

(a) Insufficient logistical and financial resources;

(b) Unsatisfactory institutional and normative framework;

(c) Inadequate training of prison guards and social workers.

X. Impact of the post-election crisis on the human rights situation

A. Background to the post-election situation

56. As stated above, the post-election crisis has had a negative impact on the human rights situation. Gross violations of human rights have included summary executions and destruction of property that have caused the displacement of the population, an outflow of refugees towards neighbouring countries and an increase in poverty.

57. Recent initiatives such as the visit of the President of the National Assembly to former president Laurent Gbagbo's native region shows yet again the will of all the political players of Côte d'Ivoire to carry on with the national reconciliation process.

B. Progress in the institutional efforts to resolve the crisis

58. The post-election crisis that occurred in the wake of the presidential elections is adversely affecting the overall efforts to resolve the crisis. Nevertheless, once he came to power the new President undertook to implement the relevant provisions of the 2007 Ouagadougou Political Agreement.

59. The parliamentary elections were thus held in December 2011 to allow the legislative branch to play its full part in the resolution of the crisis and implementation of the recommendations made under the universal periodic review.

60. In March 2011, the President of the Republic issued a decision to merge the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles (FAFN).

61. In addition, institutions such as the Economic and Social Council, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Constitutional Council and the Grand Chancellery resumed their work after their top officials were appointed.

62. Significant progress has since been made in dealing with the negative effects of the crisis (dismantlement of unauthorized checkpoints, opening of social and political dialogue, gradual return of exiles and internally displaced persons, lifting of the freeze on assets of Gbagbo supporters, etc.).

63. Talks are also under way between the Government and political parties in order to ease social and political tensions.

C. Serious human rights abuses and violations

Human rights violations

64. There have been numerous human rights violations during the post-election crisis, particularly in the period between 31 October 2010 and 15 May 2011.

Violations of international humanitarian law

War Crimes

65. The crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has brought about a gross violation of the principle of distinction between civilians and combatants, by which the parties to the conflict must at all times distinguish between civilians and combatants.

66. Contrary to this rule, attacks are often directed against civilians. On 3 March 2011, Ivorian security forces (FDS) opened fire on an all-women march of nearly 3,000 protesters along the Anador d'Abobo motorway. Seven women and a young man were killed. Weeks before, the market in the Siaka Koné district and several courtyards were bombarded, which claimed the lives of dozens and injured hundreds of people.

Violation of the Geneva Conventions

67. During the post-election crisis civilians have been the victims of summary executions on the part of the belligerent forces, in violation of article 3 of the relevant Geneva Convention.

Crimes against Humanity

68. Civilians were subject to various acts of violence, attempts on life and physical integrity and inhuman and degrading treatment. In general, the rival groups made no effort to spare the lives of combatants and there were constant violations of humanitarian rules.

Other human rights violations

69. The crisis situation caused the displacement of people and unprecedented refugee flows both within the country and in neighbouring countries. The reported violations of human rights and international humanitarian law during the post-election crisis constituted a serious infringement of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire.

XI. Priorities, initiatives and commitments

70. As part of efforts to cope with the crisis, restore the rule of law and achieve national reconciliation and, ultimately, reach economic, social and cultural development goals, Côte d'Ivoire has worked tirelessly to confront difficulties in the course of the past four years. The factors set out above have slowed down the pace of economic recovery. In the light of the foregoing, the following priorities, initiatives and commitments have been identified in

order to overcome challenges and constraints and improve the human rights situation of Côte d'Ivoire on the ground.

A. Priorities

1. Consolidation of peace

- Prepare for the next elections (voter registration, reform of the National Election Commission, forming of political parties, etc.);
- Beef up security (training of security officers, law enforcement equipment, continued reintegration of former combatants, etc.).

2. Submission of reports to treaty bodies

- Training of team members in charge of the preparation of reports to be submitted to the treaty bodies;
- Provision of adequate financial and material resources to the authority responsible for producing reports.

3. Combating violence against women and improving their living conditions

- Build capacity of the relevant actors to come up with a communications and awareness-raising strategy for behavioural change;
- Formulate strategies and intensify campaigns to raise awareness among community leaders;
- Facilitate women's access to credit and land;
- Reinforce affirmative action measures to facilitate women's access to employment;
- Continue to implement the national strategy aimed at encouraging women to stand for elective office and seek public appointments;
- Continue efforts to raise awareness among relevant actors about respect for women's rights, in particular combating female genital mutilation.

4. Improvement of prison policy

- Improve logistical and financial resources;
- Build new prisons in accordance with the relevant standards (separation of quarters of men, women and children);
- Strengthen the institutional framework;
- Bring the normative framework up to date;
- Provide training for prison guards and social workers.

5. Adoption of the national human rights policy

- Finalization of the project;
- Implementation of action plans, etc.

6. Continuation of national reconciliation

71. Support the process of national reconciliation through the provision of sizeable and extra material and financial resources. (In particular, continue the work of the Commission on Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation and the National Programme for Social Cohesion).

B. Commitments/initiatives

72. In response to the post-election crisis, the Government undertook a number of initiatives to shed light on serious human rights abuses and at the same time fight against impunity:

(a) **Full cooperation of the State** with UNOCI, the International Commission of Inquiry led by Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn on human rights violations arising from the post-election crisis of 4 to 28 May 2011 and the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Doudou Diène;

(b) **Recourse to the International Criminal Court** in December 2010 to investigate crimes against humanity arising from the post-election crisis;

(c) **Domestic capacity-building** of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire in defence and security and strengthening its collaboration with UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to secure the common border between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia;

(d) **Arrest, trial and imprisonment** of the FRCI agents who are found guilty of human rights violations by the military court;

(e) **Commission on Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation and National Programme for Social Cohesion initiatives** to foster national reconciliation and social cohesion. The Commission is expected to propose measures for redress to victims of the crisis.

XII. Capacity-building and technical assistance needs

73. In view of the difficulties and constraints that Cote d'Ivoire faces and the priorities and commitments that have been identified to overcome those difficulties and improve the human rights situation, Cote d'Ivoire is officially seeking the support of the international community (United Nations system, OIF) in implementing the following priorities (para. 73 (a)).

XIII. Conclusion

74. Since the consideration of its report in December 2009, Côte d'Ivoire has continued its efforts to improve the human rights situation. For that purpose, not only has it brought its national laws into line with international agreements, but it has also begun to take on and fulfil its international obligations through national and sectoral policies.

75. Therefore, as far as the prospects for the universal periodic review mechanism are concerned, Côte d'Ivoire notes its usefulness and added value in promoting and protecting human rights in Member States.

76. As it completes its second universal periodic review cycle, Côte d'Ivoire proposes to put in place a mechanism to follow up on the implementation of recommendations with a clear mandate and adequate resources and to build its capacity to assess the impact of the implementation of recommendations on the human rights situation.

Notes

[1] Les recommandations portent un numéro. Elles sont issues du Rapport du Groupe de travail sur l'EPU sur l'examen de Côte d'Ivoire (A/HRC/13/9);

Les recommandations «notées» de la Côte d'Ivoire sont issues de l'additif au rapport du Groupe de travail sur l'EPU (A/HRC/13/9/Add.1/Rev.1).